

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THE NORTH CATAWBA FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT ON THEIR 55TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2013

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the North Catawba Fire and Rescue Department as they mark their 55th anniversary.

Committed and hardworking firefighters play a vital role in keeping our homes, businesses, and public places safe from the threat of deadly fires.

The residents of North Catawba take comfort in knowing that these men and women are nearby in the event of an emergency.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 11th District of North Carolina, I congratulate the brave men and woman of North Catawba Fire and Rescue Department who are devoted to protecting lives. This sacrifice truly exemplifies the spirit of America.

HONORING MASTER HARVEY GOLDBLATT—PIERSON COLLEGE, YALE UNIVERSITY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2013

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Master Harvey Goldblatt, a devoted educator who is affectionately known to students, alumni, and parents as simply, Master G.

After 19 years of dedicated service as the Master of Pierson College, Professor Goldblatt will step down from this position, but will continue as the Chair of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

The Masters of Yale's residential colleges are responsible for all aspects of its operation—ensuring students have a place to live, study, and dine together. Master G was transformational for Pierson College and worked hard to enrich the student experience. Whether it was supporting their research, immersing them in other cultures, or taking the time to greet each student by name—Master G was a tireless advocate for their best interests.

Originally from Hamilton, Ontario, Master G received a Bachelor's Degree in Russian from McGill University in 1969. During his studies at McGill, Master G was the first North American to study abroad in the Soviet Union. He received a Master's in 1972 and a Ph.D. in 1978 in Slavic Languages and Literatures, both from Yale University.

Master G shared with the students, parents, and alumni of Pierson College his time, energy, and a strong devotion to their shared community. In return, they have asked me to

express their gratitude to him for being a beloved friend and mentor.

We thank Professor Goldblatt for his continued service to Yale and look forward to meeting the next generation of young thinkers and leaders who will follow in his good example.

THIRTEEN AMERICANS RECEIVING APPOINTMENTS TO THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMIES

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2013

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 13 young Americans from my district that all received appointments to the prestigious U.S. military academies. As these young men and women prepare for their graduation from high school and look forward to the opportunities and challenges that they will face in the coming years, I would like to take a moment to pause and reflect on what they have already accomplished.

This year's group of appointees is made up of Eagle Scouts, team captains, talented musicians, and passionate stewards of the community. Their teachers, coaches, and neighbors have described members of this class as exceptionally hard workers, both in the classroom and on the playing field. Collectively, they averaged a 4.06 GPA.

Through all of their activities, two qualities have shined brightest: Leadership and Integrity. These qualities will serve them well as they grow into tomorrow's leaders in the Armed Forces and beyond.

The members of this group are truly among the best and brightest of our country. Their numerous achievements, dedication to America, and their limitless potential for future greatness have renewed my faith and belief that America's best days lie ahead.

Please join me in wishing these young adults success in all their future endeavors.

MATTHEW RANDELL, HONORED FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO VOLUNTEER AT BAY PINES VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2013

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Matthew Randell for his commitment to serving our wounded veterans. Over the past two years he has committed countless hours serving our wounded Veterans at Bay Pines Veterans Affairs Healthcare System (VAHCS). While volunteering, he brings joy and happiness to everyone that he meets and works with.

Bay Pines VAHCS provides excellent health, psychiatric and extended care services for over 10,000 Veterans a year as they return home and integrate back into civilian life. Bay Pines is made up of nine facilities along Florida's west coast, and provides outstanding healthcare to Florida's Veterans. The 3,500 staff members and 1,500 volunteers have made it possible for the men and women that have served this nation in uniform to obtain the best possible care.

Matthew is just one of those 1,500 volunteers, but he stands out for his exceptional service to the facility and its patients. He has dedicated over 1,000 hours of his time, in the past two years, to volunteering. During this time spent, he has created thousands of smiles for both patients and staff. He makes people smile with anything from a simple thumbs up to his signature "happy dance" that he has perfected in his time at Bay Pines VAHCS. Everyone, from patients to VA directors, dances with him. In addition to bringing vast amounts of happiness, he works in the Voluntary Service storage room by organizing and delivering robes, books, shirts, and toiletries to Veterans in the medical center.

I would like to recognize Matthew as a patriotic and incredible man who continues his part to serve the country. He has found a way to share his gifts of love and cheerfulness with the men and women who have selflessly put their lives on the line for our freedom. For this, I would ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking and commending Matthew for his service and dedication to our Nation's heroes.

HIGH PERFORMING BUILDING WEEK

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2013

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, this week, architects, code officials, homebuilders, architects, engineers and representatives from the building trades will convene in Washington to celebrate High-performance Building week.

The annual event features briefings, meetings, and other educational opportunities to showcase and promote the good work being done to construct and maintain buildings that are more resilient, use less energy, and mitigate their impact on the environment.

As a member of the High-Performance Building Congressional Caucus, I know that building owners and operators work hard to find new creative ways to minimize the impact that rising energy costs have on their operations.

Many of these owners and operators are beginning to see the fruits of their labor, as improved designs of new buildings, and smart retrofits of existing buildings, free up capital and allow managers to commit more resources to their core operations, rather than to utility bills.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

One of the easiest, most cost effective ways to improve building performance is to ensure that proper insulation is installed in a building.

While most of us think that insulation is only for our walls and attics, thermal insulation for piping and equipment, known as mechanical insulation, is a vital component for commercial and industrial applications.

In an effort to address this issue, I introduced H.R. 184, the Mechanical Insulation Installation Incentive Act of 2013. This legislation is designed to incentivize commercial and industrial facility owners to make their buildings and facilities more efficient and put people back to work.

According to the National Insulation Association, improved insulation for piping and mechanical components in commercial and industrial settings will help business save more than \$4.8 billion a year.

These improvements will also save resources to the tune of more than 82 million barrels of oil, or 19 million tons of coal.

I ask all my colleagues to consider supporting H.R. 184. It's a commonsense bill that will save money, improve facility operations, put people to work, and help our buildings and facilities perform to a higher standard.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to acknowledge the hard work that our nation's architects, engineers, and building professionals do to improve the condition of our homes, schools, and businesses.

CONGRATULATING JERRY WOLFE ON HIS DESIGNATION AS BELOVED MAN OF THE EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2013

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cherokee Tribal Elder Jerry Wolfe, a decorated World War II D-Day veteran who was recently named a Beloved Man of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

This is the first time since the early 1800s that a Cherokee man has been awarded this special status.

Historically, Beloved Men and Beloved Women have been revered even above Tribal Chiefs due to the strong example they set for all members of the Tribe.

Mr. Wolfe joined the U.S. Navy at age 18 and devoted six years to defending his country. On D-Day, he served on a landing craft at Omaha Beach, France, and later deployed to Pearl Harbor.

Assigned to the USS *Missouri*, Mr. Wolfe witnessed the peace treaty signed by U.S. and Japanese officials to end the Pacific theater of World War II.

Mr. Wolfe currently works part-time at the Museum of the Cherokee, sharing his knowledge of Cherokee culture. His service at the museum is yet another testament to his lifelong commitment to service.

Mr. Wolfe has been widely recognized for his dedication to cultural preservation. He received the North Carolina Folk Heritage Award in 2003 and the Brown-Hudson Folklore Award from the North Carolina Folklore Society in 2010.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire 11th District of North Carolina, I congratulate Mr.

Wolfe on his lifetime of achievement and thank him for his service to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and to our Nation.

4 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL WAR IN SRI LANKA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2013

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 4th anniversary of the end of the tragic civil war in Sri Lanka that has cost many lives and destroyed many futures.

As Sri Lanka and its people slowly begin to return to normalcy, there is still much that the government of Sri Lanka must do to achieve true peace. While the war has ended, the conflict between its people still goes on. In particular, I am troubled that not enough progress is being made towards true political reconciliation. The deaths of thousands of civilians, on both sides, during the war must be investigated and addressed to truly begin the process of healing.

In addition, it is important to recognize that the Tamils must be integrated and become full and valued citizens of the country for true reconciliation to occur; this includes preventing forced displacement and the uprooting of families and communities from their homes. The US-sponsored resolution that passed the United Nations Human Rights Council this March that urged the Sri Lankan government to credibly and independently investigate the allegations of international human rights violations is a good first step.

I urge the government of Sri Lanka to work with the international community and the United Nations to adopt an international mechanism towards reconciliation for all people.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,734,808,644,648.07. We've added \$6,110,451,189,734,235.05 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2013

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding my absence from the House on Friday, May 17. During this time, I was home attending my daughter's kindergarten graduation ceremony. I would like to submit how I would have voted had I been in attendance for the following votes:

Rollcall No. 155, on Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 216, a resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 1062. I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 156, on the Adoption of H. Res. 216, a resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 1062. I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 157, on Agreeing to Amendment No. 2. I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 158, on Agreeing to Amendment No. 3. I would have voted "no."

Rollcall No. 159, on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 1062 with instructions. I would have voted "no."

Rollcall No. 160, on Passage of H.R. 1062, the SEC Regulatory Accountability Act. I would have voted "yea."

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS THE TAX AVOIDANCE PROBLEM

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2013

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to come before the House to introduce legislation ending a current law loophole that allows foreign insurance groups to strip their U.S. income into tax havens to avoid U.S. tax and gain a competitive advantage over American companies. I am pleased to be joined in my efforts by Senator MENENDEZ, who is introducing the Senate companion bill.

Many foreign-based insurance companies are using affiliate reinsurance to shift their U.S. reserves into tax havens overseas, thereby avoiding U.S. tax on their investment income. This provides these companies with a significant unfair competitive advantage over U.S.-based companies, which must pay tax on their investment income. To take advantage of this loophole, several U.S. companies have "inverted" into tax havens and numerous other companies have been formed offshore. And, absent effective legislation, industry experts have predicted that capital migration will continue to grow, stating that "redomestication offshore will be a competitive necessity for many U.S. primary 'specialty' insurers." As we grapple with significant budget challenges in the years to come, it is essential that we not allow the continued migration of capital overseas and erosion of our tax base. Clearly, at a time when we are considering a move to a territorial system with base erosion rules applicable to U.S. companies, we must also have "credible" rules to prevent base erosion by foreign companies doing business in the U.S.

There have been previous attempts to address the tax avoidance problem resulting from reinsurance between related entities. Congress first recognized the problem of excessive reinsurance in 1984 and provided specific authority to Treasury under Section 845 of the Tax Code to reallocate items and make adjustments in reinsurance transactions in order to prevent tax avoidance or evasion. In 2003, the Bush Treasury Department testified before Congress that the existing mechanisms were not sufficient. In 2004, Congress amended Section 845 to expand the authority of Treasury to not only reallocate among the parties to a reinsurance agreement but also to recharacterize items within or related to the

agreement. Congress specifically cited the concern that these reinsurance transactions were being used inappropriately among U.S. and foreign related parties for tax evasion. Unfortunately, as recent data shows, this grant of expanded authority to Treasury has not stemmed the tide of capital moving offshore to take advantage of the tax benefit.

Since 1996, the amount of reinsurance sent to offshore affiliates has grown dramatically, from a total of \$4 billion ceded in 1996 to \$33 billion in 2011, including nearly \$20 billion to Bermuda affiliates and over \$7 billion to Swiss affiliates. Use of this affiliate reinsurance provides foreign insurance groups with a significant market advantage over U.S. companies in writing direct insurance here in the U.S. Over the same period, we have seen a doubling in the growth of market share of direct premiums written by groups domiciled outside the U.S., from 5.1 percent to 11.1 percent, representing \$57 billion in direct premiums written in 2011. Again, Bermuda-based companies represent the bulk of this growth, rising from 0.1 percent to 3 percent, although it peaked at 4% before some companies moved from Bermuda to Switzerland seeking protection under the tax treaties. And it should be noted that during this time, the percentage of premiums ceded to affiliates of non-U.S. based companies has grown from 13 percent to 57 percent. Bermuda is not the only jurisdiction favorable for reinsurance. In fact, one company moved from the Cayman Islands to Switzerland citing "the security of a network of tax treaties," among other benefits.

A coalition of 13 of the largest U.S.-based insurance and reinsurance companies has been formed to express their concerns to Congress. They recently wrote to the House Ways and Means Committee's working groups urging passage of my proposed legislation because, as they wrote, "This loophole provides foreign-controlled insurers a significant tax advantage over their domestic competitors in attracting capital to write U.S. business. Our tax system should not favor foreign-owned groups over domestic insurers in selling insurance here at home." With more than 150,000 employees and a trillion dollars in assets here in the U.S., I believe it is a message of concern that we should heed.

But it is not only the harm to our tax base that should concern us. According to a 2010 investigative report in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune entitled "How Bermuda Rigs Insurance Rates in Florida," for which the reporter won a Pulitzer Prize, "Two-thirds of property insurance premiums now leave Florida as unregulated payments to largely offshore reinsurers . . . without rate control or consumer oversight." It clearly cannot be good for us to lose regulatory control over our U.S. insurance industry.

That is why I am again filing legislation to end the Bermuda reinsurance loophole. This proposal has been developed working with the tax experts at both the Treasury Department and the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation to address concerns that have been raised with prior versions of the bill and develop a balanced approach to address this loophole. The proposal is consistent with our trade agreements and our tax treaties.

Specifically, the proposal I am filing today uses a common-sense approach to combat earnings stripping through the use of affiliate reinsurance. It will effectively defer the deduc-

tion for premiums paid to the offshore affiliate until the insured event occurs—thereby restricting any tax benefit from shifting reserves and associated investment income overseas. This is accomplished by denying an upfront deduction for any foreign affiliate reinsurance (if the premium is not subject to U.S. tax) and then excluding from income any reinsurance recovered (as well as any ceding commission received), where the premium deduction for that reinsurance has been disallowed. This "deduction deferral" proposal is similar to one contained in the Administration's budget this year.

The bill allows foreign groups to avoid the deduction disallowance by electing to be subject to U.S. tax with respect to the premiums and net investment income from affiliate reinsurance of U.S. risk. Special rules are provided to allow for foreign tax credits to avoid double taxation. This ensures a level-playing field, treating U.S. insurers and foreign-based insurers alike.

The legislation provides Treasury with the authority to carry out or prevent the avoidance of the provisions of this bill.

A fuller technical explanation of the bill can be found on my website.

It is important to note that the bill I am reintroducing today does not impact third party reinsurance, which adds needed capacity to the market. Third party reinsurance is a fundamental business technique for risk management and is to be fostered. Rather, the bill is targeted solely at reinsurance among affiliates, which adds no additional capacity to the market and is often used for tax avoidance. The LECG group, a respected global expert services and consulting firm, says that this fact alone causes opponents' claims regarding potential adverse effects on capacity and pricing to be untrue.

LECG also found it highly unlikely that foreign groups would stop providing coverage in the U.S. market if they are required to compete on a level playing field with domestic competitors. But, even if they did, the rest of the market would quickly replace any capacity. In a recent Boston Globe piece, an independent S&P credit ratings analyst and reinsurance market expert reached the same conclusion, saying that any effects on capacity and pricing would be minor. The foreign companies' "interest in the US market will not change. The US is the largest reinsurance market in the world," she said.

Ending this unintended tax subsidy for foreign insurance companies will stop the capital flight at the expense of American taxpayers and restore competitive balance for domestic companies. In explaining the Administration's proposal, the Treasury Department expressed similar concern over the current competitive balance, stating "Reinsurance transactions with affiliates that are not subject to U.S. federal income tax on insurance income can result in substantial U.S. tax advantages over similar transactions with entities that are subject to tax in the United States."

Closing this loophole does not impose a new tax. It merely ensures that foreign-owned companies pay the same tax as American companies on their earnings from doing business here in the United States. Congress never would consciously subsidize foreign-owned companies over their American competitors in order to serve the domestic market. Thus, there is no reason an unintended sub-

sidy should be allowed to continue. I agree with the U.S. companies. "It is time to close this loophole to protect our tax base and place and U.S. and foreign-based insurers on a level-playing field."

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address the House on this important matter and I assure my colleagues that I will continue my efforts to combat offshore tax avoidance, regardless of what industry is impacted.

CONNECTICUT'S CHILDREN— MOURNING THE YOUNG LIVES LOST TO SENSELESS VIOLENCE

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2013

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the senseless violence that engulfs our communities and across the nation.

America's greatest strength comes from its rich diversity of culture, race, ethnicity, religion and perspectives. Separately, these are the threads that define who we are as individuals. Pull these threads together, and they create a tapestry of who we are as a nation. Let us never forget that there are two threads each of us living in this moment, no matter our background, share in common: the invisible bond of citizenship and the experience of childhood.

However, far too many children living in this nation never have the chance to know a true childhood.

In my mind, a true childhood is a time in our lives where we have enough. Enough love to know we have value, enough food to allow us to never know hunger, and enough supports in our communities to better ensure our health and safety. These are but a few of the important elements that a child needs enough of in order to better ensure a healthy and successful adulthood.

Americans from every walk of life have together mourned the loss of the innocent children who died on December 12, 2013, and rightfully so. We mourned the lives lost from the shootings in Phoenix, Aurora, Columbine and Virginia Tech. For our nation's children who are trying to grow up in our nation's urban settings, the opportunity to realize adulthood is placed in jeopardy because of gun violence on a daily basis.

In the last 12 years in Connecticut, 94 children have died from gun violence. In that same span of time, more than 924 were injured and maimed by firearms. The majority of these firearm injuries and deaths occurred in Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport.

The children and youth who die each day in our cities from gun violence are every bit as precious, every bit as deeply loved and missed as any child who dies anywhere else in our nation.

I stand here today on the floor of the House to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 20 lives senselessly cut short by gun violence the last 18 months in the city of Hartford.

Today, here in the United States House of Representatives, we mourn the loss of:

Jimmy Narvaez-Gonzalez 07/20/2012.

Eric Perez 07/22/2012.

Benjamin Grate 07/23/2012.

Errol Campbell 08/14/2012.
 Johnny Armstong 08/27/2012.
 Esmerito Perez Mendez 09/24/2012.
 Ramon Perez 09/24/2012.
 Sonja Rivera 09/27/2012.
 Omar Santana 10/05/2012.
 Shane Oliver 10/20/2012.
 Verall "Anthony" Hampton 11/11/2012.
 Ricardo Arroyo 12/03/2012.
 Jazzy Delgado 12/23/2012.
 Sawaire Kirchindath 02/28/2013.
 Kwante Feliciano 03/25/2013.
 Kelly Cooper 03/25/2013.
 Jimmy Q. Roberson 04/03/2013.
 Kelly McCaskill Coupe 04/25/2013.
 Shaman Jenkins 04/28/2013.
 Javar Pretson 05/05/2013.

In the words of Senior Pastor, Stephen Camp of the Faith Congregational Church in Hartford, "We pray for those parents and relatives who grieve still for the loss of their loved ones taken by senseless violence . . . these victims whom we remember, leave mothers and parents who search still for God's hope and God's assurance."

May all of our actions in this Congress reflect the hope of these parents, and parents everywhere who pray that no other mother or father knows what it means to mourn a child lost to senseless violence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE POMPEO

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2013

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, on May 17, I missed rollcall votes numbered 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, and 160 because I was in Kansas.

Rollcall No. 155 was a vote on the Previous Question. Had I been present I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 156 was a vote on the rule for H.R. 1062, the SEC Regulatory and Accountability Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 157 was a vote on an amendment to H.R. 1062 offered by Representative HURT to express the sense of Congress that rules adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) comply with the same standards required of the SEC, and requires the SEC to ensure that any rules adopted by the Municipal Securities Rule-making Board (MSRB), and other national securities associations comply with the standards set forth in the bill. Had I been present I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 158 was a vote on an amendment to H.R. 1062 offered by Representative MALONEY to strike all text after the enacting clause and insert findings and a sense of Congress that the SEC is already required to conduct economic analysis as part of its rule-making. Had I been present I would have voted "no."

Rollcall No. 159 was a vote on a motion to recommit H.R. 1062. Had I been present I would have voted "no."

Rollcall No. 160 was a vote on passage of H.R. 1062. Had I been present I would have voted "yes."

HONORING GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS FOR DECIDING TO SERVE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AS MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2013

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor fifty-four high school seniors in Camden County for their commendable decision to enlist in the United States Armed Forces. Of these fifty-four, twenty have joined the Army: Kristina King, Leroy Jones, Thomas Harkin, Kristopher Ponce, Laura Aune, Page Scarretto, Anthony Andrews, Michael Whelan, Cordeiro Dougherty, Travis Daniels, Jose Acevedo, Marco Medina, Samuel Adames, Harley Marks, Spencer Barber, Quiomy Abelaria, Fernando Santiago, Zachariah Gill, Michael Brown, and Isaiah Johnson. Four have joined the Navy: Dioned Gonzalez-Cabral, James Lewis, Linh Tran, and Petrell Vereen. Three have joined the Air Force: Brandon Nataro, Salvatore Mannino, and Kyle Bedwell. Twenty-three have joined the Marine Corps: Joseph Rodano Jr., Richard Sheldon, Adam Dobson, Christopher Taylor, Andrew Morgan, Tristen Boggs, Kevin Dickson, Christian Dobush, David Groff, Timothy Leadley, Allen Reid, Gregory Sycz, Walter Holloway, Detaniel Jackson, Garrett Mercer, Jose Baez-Claudio, Pabel Arrizaga, David Pellet, Jesus Ortega, Justin Benejan, Eric Regensberger, Roy Ensign, and Evan Magargel. And four have joined the New Jersey National Guard: Tucker Patten, Trinidad Rodolfo, Alicea Yolanda, and Brendann Murphy. All fifty-four will also be recognized on May 21st at "Our Community Salutes of South Jersey."

Later this month, these young men and women will join their classmates in celebration of graduation. At a time when many of their peers are looking forward to pursuing vocational training or college degrees, they instead have chosen to dedicate themselves to military service in defense of our country. They should rest assured that the full support and resources of this chamber, and of the American people, are with them in whatever challenges may lie ahead.

It is thanks to the dedication of untold numbers of patriots like these fifty-four that we are able to meet here today, in the House of Representatives, and openly debate the best solutions to the many and diverse problems that confront our country. It is thanks to their sacrifices that the United States of America remains a beacon of hope and freedom in a fractious world.

Mr. Speaker, their decision to serve our country will not go unrecognized. I want to personally thank these fifty-four graduating seniors for the selflessness and courage that they have shown by volunteering to risk their lives in defense of others. We owe them, along with all those who serve our country, a deep debt of gratitude.

HONORING PFC CODY TOWSE

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2013

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated soldier and American hero who died tragically while aiding a fellow soldier in Afghanistan. While responding to an injury from a roadside bomb, Army medic PFC Cody Towse was killed when a second roadside bomb detonated. Three other brave soldiers also lost their lives during the incident.

Only 21 years old, PFC Towse had recently earned an Army Combat Medic Ribbon for saving another life under fire. His family was not surprised to learn he died in an act of service, treating the injuries of another. We honor his service and sacrifice to our safety and security.

Known as the "Candy Doctor" by Afghan children in the Kandahar region, PFC Towse had earned a reputation for spreading joy in the form of candy. When he turned 21 on May 8, he asked his family to send over more candy for him to share.

A Class of 2010 graduate of Utah's Salem High School, Towse loved to help people, choosing to become an EMT the day he turned 18. He later became a firefighter, but ultimately joined the military, where he felt he could use his training and skills to save lives. He did save lives, even at the cost of losing his own. He dreamed of one day becoming a LifeFlight medic. Towse carried on a proud and honorable tradition as he comes from a military family dating back to World War II.

We honor the tremendous personal sacrifice of PFC Towse's family. He leaves behind his parents, Jim and Jamie Towse, two brothers, 20-year-old Will and 14-year-old Christian, and a sister Callan who is 17. The Towse family has endured a terrible tragedy and made an extraordinary sacrifice on behalf of all Americans and we are forever thankful.

Today, I ask all Members of Congress to join me as we honor the life and legacy of Army PFC Andy Towse, as well as each man and woman in our Armed Services. They put themselves in harm's way and toil daily to hold back the forces of terrorism. I also ask that we recognize the sacrifice and burdens these families bear on behalf of each of us. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the many men and women who have given their lives to preserve our freedom.

RECOGNITION OF CAMEROON'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2013

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of Cameroon as it celebrates its National Day today, May 20th. Known by many as "Africa in Miniature," Cameroon represents within its borders the whole of Africa's wondrous geographic diversity. This Central African nation, a strong ally of the United States, has made important strides both politically and economically over the past year.

For example, last month, on April 14th, Cameroon held its first Senatorial elections, fulfilling its Constitutional requirement to sit an upper house of its National Assembly. This new legislative body, which commenced its first session last week, reinforces the steps Cameroon has taken on its path to a full and vibrant democracy.

On the economic front, Cameroon has also made important strides on its road toward responsible development by joining the Kimberley Process and working toward validation under the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. In January of this year, the Government approved the establishment of two new financial institutions to strengthen the financing of small and medium rural enterprises in Cameroon.

Mr. Speaker, it must also be noted that Cameroon also represents the collective African desire to enhance bilateral trade with the United States and last month, I cosponsored legislation that would do just that. Among other things, H.R. 1777 would create jobs in the United States by increasing U.S. exports to Africa by at least 200 percent in real dollar value within 10 years. This legislation complements the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), a system that reinforces African reform efforts and provides improved U.S. market access for African countries.

African countries such as Cameroon benefit from AGOA in part because it helps build an economic foundation upon which a broader bilateral relationship can be built, and I urge my colleagues to support renewal of this important legislation before it expires in 2015.

While Cameroon continues to make measured progress, challenges remain. Nevertheless, I am encouraged by the engagement that exists between our two nations, as it will help the Government of Cameroon consolidate its democratic gains and economic growth, both of which create a brighter future for the people of Cameroon.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my best wishes to the people of Cameroon as they celebrate their National Day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT DESJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2013

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, at the conclusion of congressional business on Friday, May 17th, I was unable to cast three rollcall votes and voted erroneously on one amendment due in order to travel back to Tennessee in time to make it to my son's high school graduation ceremonies. On rollcall vote No. 157, Representative Hurt's amendment to H.R. 1062, I am recorded as not being present. I would like the record to show that I would have voted in favor of this amendment. Next, I mistakenly voted in favor of rollcall vote No. 158 thinking the vote was still open for the rollcall vote No. 157, and I would like the record to indicate I intended to vote against rollcall vote No. 158. Lastly, I would like the record to indicate that I would have voted against rollcall vote No. 159, the motion to recommit with instructions and would have voted in favor of rollcall vote No. 160, passage of H.R. 1062.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2013

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast rollcall votes on the afternoon of May 16th and all day on May 17th. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

On rollcall 153, I would have voted "yes."
On rollcall 154, I would have voted "no."
On rollcall 155, I would have voted "no."
On rollcall 156, I would have voted "no."
On rollcall 157, I would have voted "no."
On rollcall 158, I would have voted "yes."
On rollcall 159, I would have voted "yes."
On rollcall 160, I would have voted "no."

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, 2013 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 22

9 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Defense
To hold closed hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2014 for the Army.

SD-192

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2014 for the United States Forest Service.

SD-124

10 a.m.
Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine S. 662, to reauthorize trade facilitation and trade enforcement functions and activities.
SD-215
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider S. 959, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to compounding drugs, S. 957, to amend

the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the pharmaceutical distribution supply chain, the nominations of Mark Gaston Pearce, of New York, Richard F. Griffin, Jr., of the District of Columbia, Sharon Block, of the District of Columbia, Harry I. Johnson III, of Virginia, and Philip Andrew Miscimarra, of Illinois, all to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board, and any pending nominations.

SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine performance management and congressional oversight, focusing on 380 recommendations to reduce overlap and duplication.

SD-342

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine how the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Pipeline can develop a high-skilled American workforce for small business, focusing on bridging the skills gap.

SR-428A

Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine the current economic outlook.

SD-G50

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on International Development and Foreign Assistance, Economic Affairs, International Environmental Protection, and Peace Corps
To hold hearings to examine different perspectives on international development.

SD-419

2 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine business practices of durable medical equipment companies.

SD-342

Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine the Medicare prescription drug program, focusing on 10 years later.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine supporting broad-based economic growth and fiscal responsibility through tax reform.

SD-608

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Anthony Renard Foxx, of North Carolina, to be Secretary of Transportation.

SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife
To hold hearings to examine nutrient trading and water quality.

SD-406

MAY 23

9 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Allison M. Macfarlane, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

SD-406

- 10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2014 for various agencies within the Department of Agriculture.
SD-124
- Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the extraction of gas from shale, focusing on current practices within the industry and environmental concerns to be addressed.
SH-216
- Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine United States-European Union economic relations, focusing on crisis and opportunity.
SD-419
- Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce
To hold hearings to examine improving Federal health care in rural America, focusing on developing the workforce and building partnerships.
SD-342
- Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 744, to provide for comprehensive immigration reform, and the nominations of Patricia E. Campbell-Smith, of the District of Columbia, and Elaine D. Kaplan, of the District of Columbia, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, and Charles R. Breyer, of California, Rachel Elise Barkow, of New York, and William H. Pryor, Jr., of Alabama, all to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission.
SH-216
- 10:30 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Derek Anthony West, of California, to be Associate Attorney General, Department of Justice, and Valerie E. Caproni, of the District of Columbia, and Vernon S. Broderick, both to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.
SD-226
- 11 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Penny Pritzker, of Illinois, to be Secretary of Commerce.
SR-253
- 2:30 p.m.
Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.
SH-219
- JUNE 4
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet
To hold hearings to examine the state of wireless communications.
SR-253
- JUNE 5
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine pending benefits legislation.
SR-418
- JUNE 11
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland
Business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2014.
SD-G50
- 11 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
Business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2014.
SD-G50
- 2 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel
Business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2014.
SD-G50
- 3:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
Closed business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2014.
SR-232A
- 6 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
Closed business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2014.
SR-232A
- JUNE 12
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower
Closed business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2014.
SR-222
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to mark up the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2014.
SR-222
- JUNE 13
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2014.
SR-222
- JUNE 14
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2014.
SR-222
- JUNE 20
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold an oversight hearing to examine water resource issues in the Klamath River Basin.
SD-366
- POSTPONEMENTS
- MAY 22
- 3 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Tulinabo Salama Mushingi, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Burkina Faso, and Catherine M. Russell, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues, both of the Department of State.
SD-419